2: Courlander B-5 (1937-1955) 1960 SV3 Haiti SV3

[P. 1]

1. The Making of the Haitian

If you come to Haiti by sea, a way that is old-fashioned but full of magic, 133
you are first aware of the island as a range of hills rising out of the water, and then, as you sail closer, new ranges come into view behind the first, and eventually you see that everything is mountains. The ranges pile up in the distance and finally lose themselves in the white morning mists that the country people call "snow." A Haitian proverb says, "Behind the mountains are mountains," and that is a true picture of the island.

In the summer after the rains have come, the hills and mountain slopes 134
are green; but later they turn brown, and it is then that one notices the 132
deep gashes where the earth has eroded and washed away into the valleys below and into the sea.

From the top of the range called La Selle ("The Saddle"), when the 132
heavy mists form and settle across the highland valleys one sees nothing 133
but the great rounded sugar-loaf peaks, which appear as floating islands in a vast sea of white.

From a distant ship in the Caribbean in the full glare of daylight it is 361
hard to imagine that millions of people have made a home of these mountains. But at night it is different. The mountains are alive then with twinkling spots of light made by cooking fires, torches, and electric bulbs. For 361
the hillsides as well as the coastal lowlands are dotted with tiny huts and 487
homesteads, and the trails from one village to another crisscross and lie on the land like a woven net. They lead from the high-up places down to the seacoast towns, through the waterless mesa of the frontier, through the pine forests of the southern range, through dense blankets of wild strawberries, wild-bamboo groves, and plantations of coffee. They find their way to the salt marches, the rice fields of the Artibonite Valley, and the cities.

In the lowlands the days are hot and tropical. It is there the sugar cane, 132
bananas, and plantains grow so lushly. In the mountains the people have [241]

2: Courlander B-5 (1937-1955) 1960 SV3 Haiti SV3

291
482

3. *Country people carrying produce to market. The highways of Haiti's economic life are the mountain trails and the unpaved roads over which the produce of countless small gardens is carried in bundles and baskets.*

[491
H89]

[P.112-C]

2: Courlander B-5 (1937-1955) 1960 SV3 Haiti SV3

[P. 112-I]

133
142
285
297
301
492
487

[314]

13. *Donkey with a load of charcoal. Where the terrain is not too rugged, donkeys or small horses do some of the carrying. The making of charcoal has helped to denude the mountains of their forests.*